



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

June 12, 2019

The 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1363, An Act To Amend Certain Laws Relating to High-impact Electric Transmission Lines.

A critical function of state government is to set fair, consistent policies. The state's well-established regulatory and permitting processes – both fair and consistent – have been put in place to weigh and balance the public's wide array of interests and to insulate what must be fact- and evidenced-based decisions from the political pressures of the day.

Unfortunately, this bill is a clear eleventh-hour attempt to disrupt these well-established processes to derail a single project. By providing municipalities with the decision-making authority over a proposal with statewide benefits, the Legislature in effect is giving towns disproportionate control over the interests of every person in the state.

That in and of itself is poor public policy, but it also sends a larger, more alarming message to those seeking to invest in our state that Maine is erratic and inconsistent in its policies – the result of which will be to drive private investment toward other states with clear and reasonable permitting guidelines. I would veto this bill regardless of the New England Clean Energy Connect proposal because it is simply bad public policy for the State of Maine.

For these reasons, I return LD 1363 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills  
Governor  
State of Maine